



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

El Centro Field Office
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El Centro, CA 92243-4561
Visit us on the Internet at
www.ca.blm.gov/elcentro

December 13, 2002

In Reply Refer To:
1600(P)
CA-670.41

Dear Reviewer:

The Proposed Amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan for Western Colorado Desert Routes of Travel Designation, Errata Sheet for the Environmental Assessment, Administrative Record of Public Comments, the Bureau of Land Management's responses to public comments, the Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact, revised map of the Proposed Amendment, Table of Open, Limited, and Closed Routes, and an Implementation schedule are enclosed for your review. Previously, the Draft Amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area and environmental assessment was issued on October 18, 2002. Two public meetings were held in San Diego (11/12/2002) and in El Centro (11/14/2002), California. The public comment period closed on November 18, 2002.

Changes include showing the 1989 camping areas that should have been shown on the No Action and Proposed Action maps. The 2000 camping areas should have been shown on the No Action and the Proposed Action maps. The Proposed Plan Amendment map includes many corrections and additions to aid the reviewers to orient themselves. A new undeveloped camping area was added in the Yuha, south of Highway 98. The no camping area along the common boundary with the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area has been dropped from the Proposed Plan Amendment. However, the final management plan for the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area may address this issue. Two miles of open routes were added to reflect the on the ground situation in the area managed by Ocotillo Wells State Vehicle Recreation Area. The East Mesa, Superstition and Yuha camping closures should have been shown on the No Action and the Proposed Alternative maps. Please see the errata sheet for more details.

Today's publication in the Federal Register of the notice of availability for the Proposed Amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan for off-road vehicle trail (route of travel) designations in the Western Colorado Desert portion of Imperial County, California, begins a 30-day period to submit written protests to the proposed plan amendment. Any person who has participated in the plan amendment process and has an interest that is or may be adversely affected by the proposed amendment may protest such approval or amendment. A protest may raise only those issues that were submitted for the record during the planning process. Protests must be filed in writing with the BLM Director in accordance with 43 CFR 1610.5-2:

- i. The name, mailing address, telephone number and interest of the person filing the protest;

- ii. A statement of the issue or issues being protested;
- iii. A statement of the part or parts of the plan or amendment being protested; a copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that were submitted during the planning process by the protesting party or an indication of the date the issue or issues were discussed for the record; and
- iv. A concise statement explaining why the State Director's decision is believed to be wrong.
- v. The decision of the Director on any protest shall be the final decision for the Department of the Interior.

Regular mail

Director (210)
Attn: Brenda Williams
P.O. Box 66538
Washington, D.C. 20035

Overnight mail

U.S. Department of the Interior
Director, Bureau of Land Management
Protest Coordinator (WO-210)
1620 "L" Street, NW, Rm 1075
Washington, D.C. 20036

Copies of the protests should also be sent to:

Arnold F. Schoeck
El Centro Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
1661 S 4th St
El Centro, CA 92243-4561

Your comments have been helpful in developing the Proposed Plan Amendment. After any protests are reviewed, a final decision in a Decision Record will be made in late January 2003. I want to thank you for your continued interest and participation in the Western Colorado Desert Route of Travel Designations projects.

Sincerely,

Greg Thomsen
Field Manager

Enclosures